

The Daily Charge



Operation Iraqi Freedom II

Telling the First Team's Story

Friday, April 2, 2004

SAPI Saves Soldiers' Lives

First Team Soldiers Equipped With the Latest in Personal Protection

By Master Sgt. Dave Larsen
and Spc. Bryan Kinkade
1st Cavalry Division PAO

CAMP VICTORY NORTH- A steady stream of Soldiers continues to flow north along Iraqi highways from staging bases in Kuwait to Baghdad. Task Force Baghdad is in the process of replacing the 1st Armored Division in the Iraqi capitol, and the Soldiers come prepared.

"One thing we learned from the first rotation of Operation Iraqi Freedom is that these armored plates save lives," said 1st Cavalry Division Chief of Staff Col. Keith Walker, referring to the Small Armor Protective Inserts (SAPI) issued to each new arrival.

"The Army has issued plates to every Task Force Baghdad Soldier who crosses the border into Iraq with the 1st Cavalry Division," Walker said. "SAPI saves lives."

The protective plates weigh down Soldiers with an additional six pounds. The plates fit snugly, front and back, into a Kevlar Outer Tactical Vest (OTV). Every Soldier carried their OTV into

"As long as it keeps me protected, I can work with it."

**-Spc.
Christopher
Vinson**

the theater of operation from the United States. Units arriving in Kuwait issued SAPI plates to troops, as they staged for their movement north into Iraq.

Six pounds may not sound like much additional weight, but Soldiers wearing the plates said it did take time to adjust.

"They were a lot heavier than I thought," said South Bend, Indiana, native, Spc. Christopher Vinson of Headquarters Company, 1st Cavalry Division. "But as long as it keeps me protected, I can work with it."

Soldiers were instructed in the proper wear of the vest with the new plates inserted while in Kuwait. The key to comfort is tightening the vest with two



By Master Sgt. Dave Larsen, 1st Cavalry Division PAO

1st Sgt. Edwin Kerns of Headquarters Co. of the First Cavalry Division and his Soldiers wear their protective SAPI plates at a qualifying range in Kuwait. The plates were issued to Soldiers prior to entering Iraq.

cinching straps on each side to evenly distribute the weight.

"It was uncomfortable, but once I learned how to wear it properly, by taking the weight off my shoulders, I felt a lot more comfortable," said Sgt. Patrick Simon, a light-wheeled mechanic from Fayetteville, N.C. serving with the division headquarters. Like previous versions of body armor worn by Soldiers, the OTV with plates protects Soldiers

against fragmentation devices and shrapnel, but it goes a step further. The plates can stop a bullet, up to 7.62-millimeter in size. The weapon of choice by most terrorist elements in Iraq is the Russian-made AK-47 assault rifle, which fires a 7.62-millimeter round.

"If I happen to take a bullet, it's going to protect me," said Spc. Hector A. Rios, from the division's headquarters. "I feel pretty safe with them."



Spring Ahead: Remember to turn your clocks ahead one hour for Daylight Savings Time

Spur The Moment

CSM Pleased with Division

What will you remember about Kuwait?

"I'd have to say [I'll remember] the camels. I've never seen camels before in my life."



SGT Sandy Chavez,
HHC 1CD

"[I'll remember] the close quarters marksmanship training we just finished. I feel more comfortable now heading up to Baghdad."



SGT Brian Motsinger,
HHC 1CD

"[The most memorable to me] is the time that allowed us to build bonds within our teams before going north [to Baghdad]. We're establishing friendships that will last throughout the year and beyond."



MAJ W. Todd Winklbauer,
HHC 1CD

"[What I'll remember] has to be the smell down at the [Kuwait City] port. I've never smelled ocean air so bad. It smelled like dead, rotting fish."



SGT David Asbridge,
545th MP Co.

By Master Sgt. Dave Larsen
ICD PAO

CAMP NEW YORK, Kuwait- With less than 48 hours on the ground in Kuwait, the 1st Cavalry Division's senior enlisted member, Command Sgt. Maj. Richard Hernandez likes what he sees.

"Morale is great," he said. "Soldiers are doing the right things. They've been very professional and very energetic. They're ready to go."

The sergeant major noted that the division's commanding general is also pleased with the preparations his Soldiers are making, and the training being conducted daily in Kuwait. One unit in particular caught Hernandez's eye.

"I've already been to about half of the ranges, and while all the units are doing a great job refining their skills, I was impressed most by the Soldiers and leadership of 4/5 ADA (4th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery Regiment)," Hernandez said. "The Renegades are doing great work."

Herds of camels are a common sight near the Kuwaiti live-fire ranges in the vicinity of Camp New York and Camp Udairi. Often, the animals will wander onto the

CSM Richard
Hernandez



CSM 1CD

ranges, creating a stop in the action until they can be moved to safety. What impressed Hernandez most about the Renegades was that a few camels didn't spoil their training day.

"When the camels came across the back of the range, they (4/5 ADA) couldn't fire their crew served weapons," Hernandez explained. "They could only fire small arms. So, they did reflexive fire instead of a lot of down time. I was really impressed."

The temporary homes for First Team troopers are a series of tent cities. While it doesn't compare to Fort Living Room, Hernandez said he appreciated the base support being provided to his Soldiers. He said the availability of phone centers on the camps is a big plus. Since most units' Army Post Office (APO) address aren't activated yet, a call home to loved ones is the main method for Soldiers to stay in touch while

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CSM: 1CD will learn from 1 AD

Continued from Page 2

they're in Kuwait.

"Soldiers need to maintain a line of communication back home," Hernandez said. "And it's important to us, as leaders, to get the information out (to our families), too."

Looking ahead, Hernandez said when the division gets to Baghdad, the first order of business will be for Soldiers to learn all they can from their 1st Armored Division counterparts during the transition phase known as right-seat-ride.

"(1st Armored Division) has done a great job in their time in Baghdad," he said. "We need to learn from them, take what they've done and take it to the next level. We want to leave Baghdad a better place than how we find it."

Today in History April 2

► From historychannel.com

1817 Texas Ranger "Big Foot" Wallace born

1860 Pony Express mail service begins

1882 Jesse James shot in the back

1936 Bruno Hauptmann executed

1942 Japanese launch major offensive against Bataan

1948 Truman signs Foreign Assistance Act

1955 ACLU says it will contest obscenity of *HOWL*

1972 Nixon orders response to North Vietnamese invasion

1990 Singer Sarah Vaughan dies

► Black Jack Remembers Fallen Hero from 2-12 Cavalry at Ceremony



Hundreds of Soldiers lined up to individually render a salute and say goodbye to their fallen comrade, Pfc. Christopher Hudson, at Camp Black Jack, Iraq.

By Lt. Col. James Hutton, 1st Cavalry Division PAO

2nd BDE Soldier Memorialized

By Staff Sgt. Tony Sailer
1st Cavalry Division PAO

In solemn remembrance, a hero was memorialized at Camp Black Jack, Baghdad, on March 25. Units from every battalion of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team lined the street to pay respect to a fallen comrade, Pfc. Christopher Hudson. More than 600 Soldiers attended and participated in the event celebrating Hudson's life.

Hudson, 21, of Carmel, Ind., died March 21 in Baghdad, Iraq when his military vehicle was hit with an Improvised Explosive Device, commonly known as IED. Hudson was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team.

An Iraqi interpreter, Annes Goesn, was also killed. Three others in the vehicle were wounded.

Lt. Col. Tim Ryan, 2-12 Cavalry Regiment, Hudson's

battalion commander, remembered Hudson as a man who "soldiered on," and always "ready to protect his crew...he never left his post."

1st Lt. Bryan Harmon, Hudson's platoon leader, also commented on the high quality of Hudson's character.

"As a man and as a Soldier he's earned my respect," said Harmon. "He did whatever was necessary."

A roll call served as a sharp reminder of Hudson's absence as his name was called out three times. "Private Hudson, Private Christopher Hudson!" a voice rang out.

Sgt. 1st Class Terrel Grooms rendered "Taps" in respect to his fallen comrade.

Immediately after the ceremony, hundreds of Soldiers lined up to pay their respects individually. A temporary monument with rifle, helmet, boots, and Hudson's picture served as a reminder of their

friend - with many leaving mementos at the site. Two medals also hung under Hudson's picture, a Bronze Star and Purple Heart. Items left in memory will be forwarded to his family.

"Pfc. Hudson and Annes Goesn, the Iraqi interpreter, died in defense of the United States and bringing liberty and freedom to the people of Iraq," wrote 2nd Brigade Combat Team Commander, Col. Michael Formica in his weekly notes to families at Ft. Hood. "Let there be no doubt - the battle to protect our nation from terrorism is being fought here and we are winning because of the actions of patriots such as these. Chris and Annes did not die in vain."

2-12 Cav. conducted a raid hours prior to the memorial ceremony and captured men believed responsible for the attack that killed these patriots.

Sewage Floods Texas Town

► From cnn.com

IRVING, Texas (AP) — A faulty gate at a wastewater treatment plant backed up millions of gallons (liters) of raw sewage, causing a smelly mess that flowed into a river, shot manholes into the air and closed a park.

State and federal environmental regulators were reviewing what caused the problem at the Trinity River Authority's east Grand Prairie plant, blocking all sewage from getting into the site for a half-day Wednesday.

The force of the flow launched at least eight manholes skyward, geysers of sewage rose more than a meter (four feet) high, and part of a golf course and a park were closed.

"Take the worst thing you've ever smelled and multiply it by 10," said golfer Len Stahly, 71.

Nearly 70 million gallons (264 million liters) of raw sewage backed up, and about 3 million gallons (11 million liters) of it flowed into the

river, officials said Thursday.

Officials had feared the sewage would lower oxygen levels in the water and threaten fish downstream, but that did not happen, said Frank Espino, regional director for the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

The blocked gate was initially raised with cranes and cables, but crews eventually fixed the problem by opening the plant's only other gate, spokesman John Jadrosich said.

Scores

NBA:

Portland 105 Boston 98

Milwaukee 78 Indiana 111

Chicago 109 Orlando 91

New Jersey 103
Washington 99



Miami 100 Atlanta 97

Los Angeles Clippers 99
Detroit 108

Golden State 85 Toronto 78

Seattle 83 Minnesota 90

Sacramento 89
San Antonio 107

New Orleans 76 Utah 89

NHL

Detroit 3 Columbus 2

Montreal 1
New York Islanders 5

Ottawa 5 Florida 4

Buffalo 4
New York Rangers 3

Edmonton 3 Dallas 1

Colorado 4 Minnesota 5

Phoenix 0 Calgary 1

Vancouver 2 Anaheim 1

San Jose 3 Los Angeles 0

	AFN ATLANTIC	AFN PACIFIC	AFN Sports	AFN Spectrum
12:00	General Hospital (12:17)	ESPNews Headline News (12:30) Pacific News (12:52)	NBA - Sacramento Kings @ Dallas Mavericks (11:00)	The Simpsons The Cosby Show (12:30)
13:00	Headline News Judge Judy (13:30)	The Simpsons That 70's Show (13:30)	NBA - Houston Rockets @ LA Lakers (13:30)	The Dead Zone
14:00	House of Mouse All Grown Up (14:30)	Survivor: All-Stars		Boston Public
15:00	Today	Alias		National Geographic Specials (Survive the Sahara)
16:00		Headline News Pacific Report (12:52) Tonight Show with Jay Leno (16:30)	SPORTSCENTER	Walking with Dinosaurs/Walking with Prehistoric Beasts
17:00	Kim Possible My Life as a Teenage Robot (17:30)	The Late Show with David Letterman (17:30)	NHL - Detroit Red Wings @ St. Louis Blues	Buffy the Vampire Slayer
18:00	Jeopardy Headline News (18:30)	Access Hollywood (18:30)		
19:00	ESPNews Headline News (19:30)	Jungle 2 Jungle	SPORTSCENTER	The Wild Thornberrys The Fairly Oddparents (19:30)
20:00	The Simpsons That 70's Show (20:30)		NHL 2Night Baseball Tonight(20:30)	The Simpsons The Cosby Show (20:30)
21:00	Survivor: All-Stars	It Happened One Night	Tennis - NASDAQ 100 Open - Men's Semifinals	The Dead Zone
22:00	Alias			Boston Public
23:00	Headline News Tonight Show with Jay Leno (23:30)	Today	The Hot List	National Geographic Specials (Survive the Sahara)
24:00				